pause for a moment and think about the process that has been unleashed because you know that we are interested in defusing the problem of growth all over the country and at least the Government on record should protest that it is also interested in the problems of the poor. But what is happening in the name of export promotion, the export of marine products, the export of commercial crops, etc., etc., is a total squeezing of hundreds and thousands of small agricultural workers and migrant labourers. Would the Government kindly inquire into these issues?

श्री उत्तमभाई एच॰ पटेल: सभापति महोदय, ऐसी कोई बात आएगी तो हम इसका पता लगाएंगे।

श्री अजीत जोगी: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्रीजी ने यह बताया कि औद्योगिक घरानों को सामुदायिक विकास का कार्य करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है, यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है। मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूं कि ये औद्योगिक घराने जब सामुदायिक विकास के काम में लगेंगे तो क्या आप उनको कुछ मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांत देंगे या कोई ऐसे निर्देश जारी करेंगे कि वे जहां काम करें, उनमें पिछड़े इलाकों, खास तौर से आदिवासी और पिछड़े इलाकों में काम करें और पैसा लगाएं, ऐसी प्राथमिकता वह दें। ऐसे निर्देश क्या सरकार उनको देगी?

श्री उत्तमभाई एच॰ पटेल: सभापति महोदय यह बड़ा अच्छा सवाल है। 120 पिछड़े जिलों में उद्योगपति इस काम में लगें, ऐसे हम मार्गदर्शन करेंगे सहयोग भी करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 423.

Strength of Rashtriya Rifles

*423. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:†
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of the Rashtriya Rifles;

(b) whether sanction has recently been granted to increase its strength;

(c) if so, whether the strength has actually been increased and if so, by how much;

(d) what is the total targeted strength of the Rashtriya Rifles for the near future; and

(e) to what extent the load on the Armed Forces has come down because of the deployment of the Rashtriya Rifles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In 1990, the CCPA had accorded approval to the sanction of 15 Battalions of Rashtriya Rifles (RR), 5 Sector Hqrs., A Directorate General Rashtriya Rifles and allied establishments, over the authorised manpower ceiling of the Army. The raising was to be completed in three phases. In first phase in 1990-91, 6 Battalions of RR and 2 Sector Hqrs. with some allied establishments were raised. However, due to funds constraint, the 2nd and 3rd phase raisings could not be completed as scheduled.

In August 1994, in view of the situation prevailing in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the strength of RR was augmented by 30 additional battalions, 10 Sector Hqrs, one Counter-Insurgency Force Hqrs and other support components. Some restructuring of the support elements was also done. The additional units/formations of the Rashtriya Rifles have been sanctioned for a period of theree years. Raising of these additional units/formations has been completed.

At present there is no proposal under consideration for further augmenting the strength of Rashtriya Rifles battalions.

The Rashtriya Rifles have been able to take over the responsibility of combating militancy in many sectors in the State of J&K and the North East. Operation

† The question was actually asked on the on the floor of the House by Shri Jagir Singh Dard.

Reserves of the Army which had earlier to be deployed on CI duties in J&K have been released for training and preparedness for their primary task. To this extent, it has helped in reducing the load on the Army.

श्री जागीर सिंह "दर्द": चैयरमेन सर, मैं आपके मार्फत वजीर साहब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि राष्ट्रीय रायफल में पंजाबियों की तादाद कितनी है?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the recruitment to the Rashtriya Rifles, we do not recruit candidates community-wise.

श्री जागीर सिंह "दर्द": सर, मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि राष्ट्रीय रायफल में जो भर्ती होती है, वह किसी स्टेट की पॉपुलेशन के आधार पर होती है या मेरिट के आधार पर होती है?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, the Rashtriya Rifles is an entirely different phenomenon. It is neither on the basis of population nor on the basis of States.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, I want to know whether it is a fact that the Department of Internal Security had vehemently opposed the formation of the Rashtriya Rifles, firstly, because they did not like the idea of a force under the command and control of the Army and, secondly, because they did not like the idea of paying the Rashtriya Rifles from the Internal Security Department, from the Home Ministry's Budget. This position has created an anomaly and has affected the proper functioning of the Rashtriya Rifles. Will the hon. Minister enlighten us on this and let us know how the tension between the Internal Security Department and the Ministry of Defence is being defused? Is there a need for another Rifles to settle the quarrels between the Internal Security Department and the Ministry of Defence?

SHRI MILLIKARJUN: Sir, to make it very clear, there is no dispute between the Internal Security Department and the Army. As we are all aware of the fact, the reality, for counter-insurgency operations in J & K and in the North-East and wherever disturbed areas have been declared, the Army has been deployed. So far as the creation of the Rashtriya Rifles is concerned, it is a paramilitary force in itself and it is under the operational command of the Army. In 1990, a decision was taken that the Rashtriya Rifles had to be created, that IS battalions of the Rashtriya Rifles had to be created in two sectors and in a three-phased manner. At that time, only six battalions were created. We could not create the rest in the second and third phases because of the constraint of funds. But later, in 1994, when it had become much more necessary because of the counter-insurgency operations, a decision had been taken to have an additional 30 battalions. Sir, on the creation of the Rashtriya Rifles, there is no question of any interference with the Internal Security forces. The Internal Security forces are also deployed. They are doing their duty of counter-insurgency. At the same time, the Rashtriya Rifles which has been created is also doing counter-insurgency operations.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a lot of confusion about the Rashtriya Rifles. Will the Government make it clear as to what its precise functions are? What is it going to do that was not earlier being done by the Army or the BSF or the CRPF? Or is it going to do certain things which were earlier being done by these agencies? That is the first part of my question. The second part is as follows. It is public knowledge that there is a difference of opinion between the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry. The Defence Ministry feels that this is basically an internal law and order machinery and therefore, the Home Ministry should pay for it. The Home Ministry thinks that the Defence Ministry should pay for it. It is public knowledge and there is no use covering it up the way it is being done here. That is all. Thank you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: So far as payment is concerned, it is an administrative matter and there is nothing to worry about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the definition of their duty?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: As for the definition of their duties, as I have already informed the august House, it is a para-military force. Whatever duties the para-military forces are performing, identical duties will be performed by the Rashtriya Rifles. The only thing is... *(Interruptions).*

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Is it a stepney, a fifth wheel? What is this agency going to do? Why has it been created? What is the rationale behind its creation?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, may I reply?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, I would mention that the rationale behind the creation of the Rashtriya Rifles is that with the Army ethos and training they will be deployed, wherever necessary, to counter insurgency. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I wanted to answer the question. My friend, Pramod Mahajan says, it is a bit too early for me to do so. Sir, we are aware of the fact that grave concern used to be voiced and is being voiced in many quarters about the excessive deployment of Army for dealing with Civil disturbances which is resulting in disorientation of Army. That is the reason why this concept of the Rashtriya Rifles was evolved and it has been implemented. In this background, I would like to ask as to why the Defence Department and the Government do not consider it necessary to spare more funds to increase the strength of the Rashtriya Rifles. The creation of the Rashtriya Rifles has certainly relieved the pressure on the Army to some extent. In my view, there is a need to relieve the pressure on the Army completely. Towards this end, there is a need to increase the strength of the Rashtriya Rifles. Will the Defence Minister consider the need to spare the money for the purpose?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that as a consequence of the deployment of the Rashtriya Rifles, the Army personnel have been sent back to their primary duties. So far as the question of augmentation of the strength of the Rashtriya Rifles is concerned, I would like to state that, only in 1994, a decision was taken to add thirty battalions to the six existing battalions for a period of three years, and depending upon the availability of funds, we will review the situation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, is the Minister aware of the decrease in recruitment in the Army? *(Interruptions)* I am just asking a question. On the one hand, you are recruiting the people for the Rashtriya Rifles. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, as we are aware, there are several paramilitary forces such as, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF, Assam Rifles, NSG, SSB, SSFF and SPG. The functions of these forces are more or less identical or sometimes they are overlapping each other. I would like to know whether there is any difference of training system or whether there is any separate mechanism for training the personnel of the Rashtriya Rifles which is different from the training given to the other paramilitary forces and whether they are going to accept the request of the other paramilitary forces for giving training to their personnel/ Cadet.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, let me make one more point here. At the moment, the strength of the Rashtriya Rifles is being drawn from the various arms of the Services itself and these people are being given training for four or five weeks. At the moment, there are five battalions which are under training at Udhampur. Thirty-one battalions are de-

ployed both in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. Have you already asked the question?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, Sir. I commend the creation of the Rashtriya Rifles and they are doing their job. But what I am saying is we end up... *(Interruption)*... हम लोगों को बोलने दो। The problem is, on the one hand, there is a serious drop in recruitment in the Armed Forces in certain States of our country and recently also Andhra Pradesh has repeated history of having a drop in recruitment in the Armed Forces. On the one hand, when you have a serious threat on our fronts, you do not have enough people who view the Armed Forces even in terms of employment. On the other, parallelly you are creating the Rashtriya Rifles. Now I want to know whether the Government is aware of having any policy; what the autonomy is that they are giving to the Rashtriya Rifles; whether they are going to cater to the other States, which face insurgency, in a similar pattern; if so, what its direct impact is on the recruitment of personnel in the Armed Forces and what the steps are that the Government is taking to rectify that.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, as I have already mentioned, the Rashtriya Rifles are being deployed wherever the counter-insurgency operations are required as in J&K and the North-East. So far as the recruitment in the Armed Forces is concerned, it has nothing to do with the Rashtriya Rifles.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, one moment. I have been seeking a clarification. I am aware that it has nothing to do with the Army.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a different question, Army recruitment.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, Sir. I am asking why they are creating a parallel force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has explained why they have a parallel force.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He has not explained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly sit down.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में लिखा है कि उग्रवाद से निबटने का दायित्व राष्ट्रीय राइफल्स को दिया है। साथ ही पैरा मिलेट्री फोर्सेज को भी उन्होंने माना है। तो एक सीधा सवाल खड़ा होता है कि मिलट्री में जब वैसे ही टोटल बजट की बहुत खींच है और मिलेटरी रिक्वायरमेंट्स के लिए भी पैसा हम नहीं दे सकते, तो यह राष्ट्रीय राइफल्स जो होम मिनिस्ट्री के डायरेक्शन के अनुसार काम करती है और उसका काम भी उग्रवाद से निबटने का है, (मिलैट्री करती रही है क्योंकि दूसरी एजेंसी नहीं थी।) अब जब आपने दूसरी एजेंसी बना दी, तो क्या सरकार इस डिपोर्टमेंट को होम मिनिस्ट्री को ट्रांसफर करने का विचार करेगी?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, Rashtriya Rifles are under the operational command of the Army. There is no question of Rashtriya Rifles being transferred to the Home Ministry for operational purposes or otherwise.

New services in CGHS Wing in Safdarjung Hospital

*424. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently introduced specialists/ consultancy services in Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic systems in CGHS wing of Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, whether similar Specialists' Consultancy services would also be introduced in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?